



Senior Housing Weekly

December 3, 2021

LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group Call. Join us on Monday, December 6, at 12:30 PM ET for our regular Housing Advisory Group call. We'll be joined by Mark Garilli, Executive Director of West Hartford Fellowship Housing, who will share efforts to create partnerships between the housing community and the broader community to address resident wellbeing, including food security. We'll also check in on news from HUD around rent setting and services valuation, changes to the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit, and updates from the Hill on federal funding for housing programs. Any LeadingAge member can join the Housing Advisory Group or submit advance questions by emailing Linda (lcouch@leadingage.org) or Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

LeadingAge COVID-19 Update Calls for the Continuum of Aging Services. What are we learning about the Omicron variant? What are the new COVID treatments and do they work? And, how are large multistate providers implementing their corporate vaccine mandate for staff. Join LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls next week to learn more about these and other COVID issues.

- On **Monday, December 6**, we will welcome back "Your Local Epidemiologist, **Dr. Katlyn Jetelina**. She will provide up to the minute updates and analysis on the new treatments for COVID-19 and how Omicron may impact vaccines and boosters. She will also take your questions on what is happening across the country with COVID-19.
- We continue to also get questions on how LeadingAge members are working to implement vaccine policies for staff and on **Wednesday, December 8**, we will be joined by **Nate Schema**, President and CEO of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, the nation's largest non-profit provider of senior care and services. Nate will share his organizations success on building trust and confidence with employees and continue to strengthen staff morale during this tough times.

If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls (held on 3:30pm ET on Mondays and Wednesdays), [you can do so here](#).

Deadline Extended: LeadingAge Affordable Housing Provider Covid-19 Survey. It's time for our last affordable housing survey of 2021. Please fill out this 5-minute survey on key housing issues, including internet connectivity and vaccine mandates at affordable housing communities. The information you provide us advances our advocacy efforts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Congress, it helps us understand the materials that our housing members need, and gives you insights about your housing peers. [Please complete the survey](#) by the end of the day Monday, December 6.

DEC 6 DEADLINE: 2022 LeadingAge Annual Meeting Call for Sessions. Do you have a new project that could inspire other housing providers? Are you part of a team that's improving services or cutting costs? Has your organization employed creative strategies to navigate HUD compliance and resident wellbeing? Your peers want to hear from you! [Submit a session proposal](#) for the 2022 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO, happening October 16-19, 2022, in Denver, CO. Submission Deadline: Monday,

December 6 at 9 p.m. ET. Proposals are easy to submit; reach out to Linda (lcouch@leadingage.org) or Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org) for assistance.

Federal Funding Through February 18 Sent to President. On December 2, the House and Senate passed a second continuing resolution (CR) to keep federal government programs funded through February 18. The CR was sent to President Biden for his signature before midnight, December 3, when the first CR expires. While the 2022 fiscal year began on October 1, none of the 12 annual appropriations bills have been enacted. The CR will keep programs funded at FY21 levels for its duration. LeadingAge has urged Congress to enact final FY22 appropriations bill as soon as possible. There are a number of problems with CRs:

- They fund programs at levels likely lower, and possibly insufficient, than necessary for the new fiscal year;
- They cause federal administering agencies to invest unnecessary staff time allocating short-term funding to providers;
- Tigher funding levels, new provisions and new programs included in the incomplete FY22 bills sit on the back burner awaiting needed enactment.

The CR does not include any special provisions to ensure HUD contract renewals can be funded during the CR; in addition, Service Coordinators has already been delayed in part due to the short-term funding availability.

HUD has assured LeadingAge that it is in close touch with appropriators and will ask Congress for any needed anomalies. Senate Republicans sought to delay a vote on the CR until the Senate considered an amendment to block OSHA's mandate for COVID vaccination or testing for companies with 100 or more employees; the amendment was defeated on a party-line vote.

New Action Alert! Senate Must Pass the Build Back Better Infrastructure Package and Take Out Harmful Nursing Home Provisions. As the Senate debates the historic expansions in housing, services, and workforce in the House-passed Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), we want to urge Senators to preserve these ground-breaking provisions and increase the funding for new construction of HUD Section 202 homes for low-income older people. However, to preserve maximum choice for older people and their families, there are two provisions in the bill related to nursing home staffing that LeadingAge cannot support without key changes. Retaining the nursing home staffing study and the 24 hour registered nurse coverage requirements as currently written will make it impossible for many nursing homes to survive. We need your help now! Without these changes and further investments in our aging services infrastructure, too many older adults will not have their basic needs met. Send a message to your U.S. Senators today: LINK: <https://mobilize4change.org/dzZTVvC>.

OSHA Extends Comments Period for the Vaccination and Testing ETS. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Wednesday issued a 45-day [extension](#) to the comment period for the COVID-19 vaccination and testing emergency temporary standard (ETS) for employers with 100 or more employees. OSHA says the deadline was pushed to Jan. 19, 2022, to allow stakeholders time to review the ETS and collect information and data necessary for comment. OSHA is currently prohibited from implementing and enforcing the ETS because a preliminary injunction is in place until we get a further decision from the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

CDC Update on First Omicron case in USA. This week, CDC issued this [fact sheet](#) on the first confirmed case of the Omicron variant in the US. They included the following information along with the fact sheet: The recent emergence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and [general prevention strategies](#) needed to protect against COVID-19. Everyone 5 and older should get vaccinated and boosters are recommended for everyone 18 years and older. CDC also issued a [media statement](#) regarding this first confirmed case of Omicron variant detected in the United States earlier this week. CDC will provide updates as more information becomes available. For more information on the Omicron variant visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>.

LeadingAge Submits Comments on Preventing & Ending Homelessness. In comments submitted today via an online form to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, LeadingAge called on the nation's next federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness to include a specific goal to prevent and end homelessness among older adults. HUD's worst case needs report point to a large population of 62+ renter households with very low incomes on the precipice of homelessness. Highlighting this population could help end homelessness among older adults but also prevent it for many more. LeadingAge also urged the USICH to support the collection of national data on older adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness (none exist today) and to work across its participating agencies to identify and support older adult experiencing homelessness. Read more about the USICH [here](#).

Continuing Care at Home Webinar. This week, LeadingAge staff Dee Pekruhn and two LeadingAge member organizations presented on this emerging topic in a free webinar hosted by the Positive Aging Sourcebook. The panel discussed the CC@H model and the development and evolution of their respective programs. If you missed the CC@H Webinar this week, you can review the recording and see the slides [here](#).

Summaries of interviews in selected recent LeadingAge Coronavirus Update calls. LeadingAge members have access to written summaries of some recent interviews on COVID Update Calls. On December 1, we spoke with [Dr. Ghinwa Dumyati](#), an infectious disease physician and Professor of Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center; she also practices in nursing homes in the Rochester area. On November 29, we interviewed [Sue DiRosario](#), Director of Support Services for the housing and services provider Making Community Happen (MCH), formally Methodist Conference Home, in Rockland, Maine.

Dining Services Staffing Challenges and Solutions Survey. Recently, Senior Housing News and Sodexo teamed up to [survey](#) 110 senior serving organizations regarding the changes they've made in response to the post-COVID staffing crisis in dining services. The survey results were released this week; you can read our summary and review [here](#).